

Published: Feb. 6, 2015, *Kokomo Tribune* [Page: A4]

http://www.kokomotribune.com/opinion/editorial-gun-training-should-be-mandatory/article_bcbfb670-ada5-11e4-aeee-43eb3d306d5e.html

Editorial: Gun training should be mandatory

THE ISSUE

Senate Bill 48 would require training before being issued a license to carry a handgun.

OUR VIEW

A modicum of training and respect for firearms really is not much to ask of those who wish to carry guns in public.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, there were 30,057 fatal motor vehicle crashes in the United States in 2013 in which 32,719 deaths occurred. Yet, we still hand out driver's licenses to people who have completed the required training and practice. Thousands will also die each year from accidents and homicides involving firearms. So, why shouldn't gun owners be mandated to go through similar training before being able to carry their firearms around?

"Sen. Jean Breaux, D-Indianapolis, authored a bill that would require those who are applying for a license to carry to first complete at least eight hours of classes from a certified firearms instructor," wrote Indianapolis Star reporter Kristine Guerra Wednesday. "Senate Bill 48, if it becomes law,

would apply to those applying for a license to carry a handgun after Dec. 31. It also would impose a penalty — a Level 6 felony charge punishable by up to two years in prison — to an instructor who's accused of signing a training completion form for someone who did not actually complete training. That charge could be reduced to a Class A misdemeanor on a case-by-case basis.”

On Jan. 31, a 3-year-old boy digging for an iPod in his mother's purse managed to shoot both his father and his 8-month pregnant mother in New Mexico, according to The Associated Press. Lucky for them, their injuries weren't fatal. At the end of last year, a mother shopping with her 2-year-old in an Idaho Walmart wasn't as fortunate, according to CNN.

No matter what you think of gun rights in this country, one thing should be clear: It only takes one moment of inattention, one pull of the trigger to bring someone's life to an abrupt conclusion. Some training and respect for firearms really isn't not much to ask of those who wish to wield such power in public. We recognize the need when it comes to automobiles, why not here? It certainly won't prevent every accident, but it couldn't hurt.